

Message Text

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FOL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CANBERRA OTTAWA EC BRUSSELS
MARCH 8, 1973 FROM GENEVA REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

REF: GENEVA 0484

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY COMMENTS BY US MISSION AND
FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS ON SECRETARIAT DRAFT CONCERNING
OBJECTIVES FOR AGRICULTURE IN MTN REPORTED HEREWITH.
WASHINGTON GUIDANCE REQUESTED BY MARCH 15. END SUMMARY

1. LUCQ (DIRECTOR GATT AGRICULTURAL DIVISION) GAVE US
DRAFT PAPER ENTITLED " NOTE BY SECRETARIAT ON OBJECTIVES
AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS AS THEY RELATE TO
AGRICULTURE." DRAFT IS IN RESPONSE REQUEST OF AG COM IN
JAN (REFTEL); ALSO GIVEN EC, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN
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AND KEY LDCS. COPIES POUCHED MARCH 7 MALMGREN- STR,
WHITE- AGRI, HOLMES- STATE, WORTHINGTON- TREASURY.

2. SECRETARIAT IS SOLICITING COMMENTS ON THIS DRAFT
BEFORE GIVING IT GENERAL CIRCULATION. LUCQ HOPEFUL PROCESS
OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION OVER COMING WEEK WILL PRODUCE
IMPROVEMENTS IN PAPER AND REDUCE RISK OF CONFRONTATION
AT NEXT MTG OF AG COM.

3. MISSION DISCUSSED DRAFT MARCH 8 ON PERSONAL BASIS WITH
AUSTRALIA AND CANADA. ALL AGREED SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM
CAPITALS BY MARCH 15 AND MEET AGAIN BEFORE RELAYING COMMENTS
TO SECRETARIAT.

4. OUR PRELIMINARY REACTION, SHARED BY AUSTRALIANS AND
CANADIANS, IS THAT DRAFT NEEDS MAJOR REVISION. SINGLE
OBJECTIVE AS IT STANDS IS UNDESIRABLE; DIFFERENT AND SIMPLER
FORMULATION SHOULD BE SOUGHT BASED EITHER ON CONCEPT OF
TRADE LIBERALIZATION OR SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OF CONDITIONS
OF WORLD AGRICULTURAL TRADE. MAINTENANCE OF PREAMBULAR
INTRODUCTION TO UNDERLINED OBJECTIVE UNNECESSARY AND
UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE IT PROVIDES TOO MUCH SCOPE FOR DISPUTES
AND POSSIBILITIES OF ENDLESS DISCUSSION IN AG COM. BELIEVE
SECTIONS ON " PRINCIPLES" (SIC) AND PROCEDURES SHOULD BE
SIMPLIFIED AND LUMPED TOGETHER. MISSION AND FRIENDLIES
THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO DISPOSE OF OBJECTIVES EXERCISE
QUICKLY AND MORE ON TO MORE PROMISING ENDEAVORS (LIKE
PILOT STUDY); ACCORDINGLY, THIS GROUP FELT BEST TACTIC MAY
BE TO PROPOSE VERY GENERAL OBJECTIVE IN LEAST CONTENTIOUS
FORM POSSIBLE, EVEN IF THIS MEANS LITTLE OR NO OPERATIONAL
SIGNIFICANCE. WE ALSO AGREED, HOWEVER, IT IMPORTANT TO
AVOID GETTING TRAPPED IN A PREJUDICIAL FORMULATION OF
OVERALL OBJECTIVE.

5. SECRETARIAT THINKS APRIL GOOD TIME FOR NEXT AG COM (I. E.
WELL BEFORE PREPCOM MAY 16). FRIENDLIES SYMPATHETIC TO
MEETING PRIOR EASTER. ASSUMPTION IS WE WOULD AT MEETING
SEEK TO DISPOSE OF OBJECTIVES PAPER AND MOVE ON TO PILOT
STUDY OR STUDIES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON SEC DRAFT BY MARCH 15.
ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENT ON MEETING SCHEDULE. RIMESTAD
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